



DAHS FALL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Bev Hill - President's Letter

Our Historical Society is always busy at both the Museum and at Gordon Hall. At the Museum we have had many guests including some 7th grade English classes from Mill Creek who came to get ideas for their creative writing projects. We are also preparing for the Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar. The Museum is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Gordon Hall we are decorating and getting ready for everyone to visit in December. Thanks to all of our supporters who have and will be helping in our upcoming events. We always appreciate the support from our tremendous community.

Save the Date

The 2023 DAHS Annual Meeting – Sunday February 5, 2023 at 2:00 pm
at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street, Dexter, Michigan

All are welcome

Refreshments, a short program, and election of Board Members

“Christmas At The Mansion” is back!!



We are so excited to have “Christmas At The Mansion” back again during the first weekend in December. On Friday night there will be a special open house fundraiser with the theme “Not A Creature Was Stirring.”

On Saturday, Santa will be back and our “Make and Take Gingerbread Project” is always a highlight. Gordon Hall will be ready for Christmas with displays in every room! Our 300 “Department 56” houses will be located throughout the mansion. On Sunday, there will be a Christmas tea with savory and sweet tea items surrounded by our Christmas displays.



We are so looking forward to “Christmas At The Mansion” to help get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

For the schedule of events, see “Christmas at the Mansion” on the next page.

Dexter Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar

On Saturday, December 3rd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Heritage Guild will be presenting their annual Holiday Bazaar at the Museum, along with the Museum’s Gift Shop sale. There will be handcrafted Christmas gifts, decorating items, warm & cozy winter hats, and beautiful kitchen accessories that would make wonderful gifts for everyone and much more!



The Guild will sell tickets for a drawing for unique treasures. The winner will be selected at 2pm and will be notified. You don’t need to be present to win!

To help with your holiday baking, we’ll have a delicious Bake Sale, following all health precautions.

There is no charge for this event. Location: Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street, Dexter, MI. If you have questions, contact Pat Pudduck at: 734-426- 8952 or email us at susan.schotts@charter.net.

Some guidelines for our bakers: customers like to be able to see the items (beautiful boxes are the last to be purchased), so use clear wrappings or clear Ziplock bags with a pretty bow. Please include the list of ingredients people may be allergic to. Any questions, please ask Sue Schotts: 734-424-9998.

On Friday, December 2nd, several Heritage Guild members will be at the museum from 8:30 to 3:00 to collect all the wonderful baked goods, canning treasures and other treats people will donate to the Bake Sale.

The Bake Sale’s success is due to all the wonderful donators! Thank you for all your help!

“Christmas at the Mansion” Schedule

“A perfect way to start the holidays”

Friday, December 2, Fundraiser

6:30 pm “Not a Creature Was Stirring”

Call (734) 395-4106 or check our website

see Invitation on right

Saturday, December 3,

“Christmas At The Mansion”

9:00 am to 5:00 pm Open House

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Santa - bring your cameras

9:00 am to 5:00 pm Gingerbread Houses

\$5.00 donation per person

Sunday, December 4, Christmas Tea

1:00 pm and 4:00 pm

\$30.00 donation per person

Call Ina for reservations (734) 395-4106

Bonus Gordon Hall Open Houses

\$5 donation

Saturday, December 10th - 6 to 8pm

Saturday, December 17th - 6 to 8pm

Wednesday December 28th - 6 to 8pm



Christmas at the Mansion
Friday December 2, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Hearty Hors d'oeuvres
Spirits and Desserts

Not a creature
was stirring,
not even a mouse



Gordon Hall
8311 Island Lake Road Dexter, Michigan
\$75 per person
Additional information:
dexterhistory.org or
Ina Germain 734-395-4106

Gordon Hall Days

Gordon Hall Days were once again a huge success. Even though the weather was a concern, it helped that the rain held off until the very end.



The fundraiser on Friday night was very entertaining with music by Billy Mack and Juke Joint Johnnies - they will be back next year too!!!

On Saturday, a record number of people toured Gordon Hall. Outside we had many vendors, activities, demonstrations, and a tremendous car show.

Special thanks go to our volunteers, sponsors, board members, vendors, and everyone else who helped make Gordon Hall Days a weekend to remember.



Gordon Hall Days Tea

Tea with desserts was enjoyed by all during



Gordon Hall Days! Helen Welford shared a program honoring the Suffragists from our area who worked tirelessly for the passage of the 19th amendment in

1920. She used her extensive collection of ensembles from the late 19th through early 20th century to depict and honor local remarkable women.

Heidi Ellis from the Cobblestone Farm in Ann Arbor also provided models and ensembles from her collection. Helen's insightful and carefully researched narrative was enthusiastically received by a record number of guests for tea.

Gordon Hall Renovation Campaign Plans

We have some exciting news! We have formally kicked off our \$3.5 million fundraising campaign for the renovation of Gordon Hall. Our plans to bring the mansion back to its former classic Greek revival glory, central hallway, and all, were presented to an appreciative audience at our 2022 Gordon Hall Days Friday night event in September. Its current interior configuration reflects the changes made to the inside of the house in the early 1950s by the University of Michigan, who created four look-alike apartments to house retired faculty (and even a U-M president!). In doing so, they stripped away the entire interior, replacing its stunning historic features with a “modern” aesthetic. Many of you have seen the current space and support us in our efforts to reclaim its former mid-1800’s glory.

Our goal is to fully restore Gordon Hall by 2024, the date of Dexter’s Bicentennial. What a gift it would be to our community to be able to complete its renovation by 2024! Our monetary goal currently stands at \$3.5 million – a challenge that we look forward to meeting and exceeding as we work with our friends to bring the house back to its former glory.

This majestic, iconic symbol of Dexter’s founding embodies the city’s link to the past. DAHS has worked hard through the years to tell the story of this outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture, as well as the story of this area’s founding families. Now we are in our final push to renovate our iconic property. We hope to host cultural and educational events here and have the home serve as a center of the historic Dexter community. Help us by becoming a volunteer, a donor, or by spreading the word about our plans. Will you join our legacy of support? Email us at DexMuseum@aol.com or call us at 734-426-2519 and join us as we recreate this historic space.

Calling all DAHS Members!

Have you attended one of our events and liked it?
Have you seen an interesting historical program and wished DAHS could offer something like it?
Have you wondered how this small organization gets so much done?

Our wonderful members and volunteers make it all happen!

We are an all-volunteer organization, and we would love to engage you in keeping our wonderful facilities and programs running smoothly. We have many different opportunities at all levels of commitment. One is sure to fit your skills, interests, and time available.

For a small time commitment, here are examples of things you can help with:

- Events
- Student tours of the Museum or Gordon Hall
- Mailings
- Outdoor and indoor cleanup
- Children welcome when accompanied by an adult.

And for a larger time commitment:

- Event organizing
- Publicity
- Correspondence
- Fundraising
- Volunteer coordination
- Board of Directors

There are many others. If you are interested, please contact Caryl Burke at 734-476-5232 or caryleburke@aol.com. Be prepared to provide your contact information and something about your interests, skills, and time available.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Dexter Area Museum Gift Shop



Located in the meeting room, the Museum Gift Shop is preparing for the upcoming Historical Guild Holiday Bazaar and has many new seasonal items for sale including vintage dishes, table decor, jewelry, mugs, bags, books, children's toys, cards and hand knitted slippers. Thanks to the number of persons

coming into the museum for, the Holiday Bazaar, the Gift Shop does quite well on this special day. We are open each day the Museum is open - Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 3, May through November.



This is the fifth article on the large posters displayed at the 2021 Gordon Hall Days. Each article highlights an aspect of the Dexter Area, Gordon Hall or the Dexter Family. Caryl Burke and Jan Weaver researched the different subjects and added relevant pictures. Nancy Van Blaricum edited and reorganized the articles to fit into this format.

The University of Michigan (UM) Years - 1950 to 2006

After Katharine Dexter McCormick donated Gordon Hall and its surrounding 67 acres to the U of M in 1950, the decision was made to convert the grand old house into four modern apartments. Emil Lorch and many others protested vigorously, but to no avail. The interior of the house was gutted to the studs, the Ell was demolished, walls and staircases were removed, and all of the woodwork that had been removed was burned. The entire interior was rebuilt with a new plan - the one you see today. Once complete, one of the first residents was then-recently retired UM President, Alexander Ruthven. Other faculty and residents lived here until the U of M decided to sell the property in 2000.



West end of Gordon Hall's grand central hall, before (left) and during (right) the conversion. Note the exposed 'noggin' on the right - bricks laid between the studs to insulate and block the wind. Today, the modern stairways and kitchens completely fill what was once the central hall.

In 2006, DAHS purchased the Gordon Hall property.

The Vision for Gordon Hall

The DAHS Years - 2006 to Forever!

Our goal is to restore Gordon Hall to its original glory as a unique historic resource for the people of the County and the State. In addition, we will:

- offer educational programs
- support community use
- provide a large green space
- continue offering rentals for events to ensure long-term sustainability

We have made much progress, including:

- 2014 - paid off the mortgage
- 2016 - removed the aluminum siding, restored original clapboard exterior
- 2016 and 2020 - removed west sunporch, restored original porch roof
- 2017 - installed handicap ramp
- 2018 - completed plans and specifications for interior restoration
- 2020 - restored the original roofline of the north wing, installed modern bathrooms
- 2021 - exposed and finished the original flooring in the north parlor
- 2022 - exposed and finished the original flooring in the south parlor



Aluminum siding removed



Handicap ramp



West sunporch removed



Original flooring exposed

New Business Members

Recently the Historical Society began a campaign to bring local Dexter businesses into the membership of the Dexter Area Historical Society. Businesses are offered a lifetime, non-voting membership in the society and in return they will receive the newsletter, a membership emblem and recognition in the newsletter of those who have joined. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Supporting Business Members:

Beacon Dental - Dr. David Traynor
Chelsea Dexter Dental Group
Cindy Strang Insurance Agency
CMR Mechanical LLC
Dexter Family Dentistry - Brent Kolb
Dexter Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Dexter Riverside Cellar
Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency
Hackney Hardware
Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel

Huron Counseling Services
Main Street Optometry-Vision
Reed Barbering - Robin's
Spring Valley Trout Farm
St. Andrew's UCC Church
The Lions Club
The Rotary Club
Village Animal Clinic of Dexter
Wallace & Wallace Properties
Whitetail Farm - Mary Baude

Membership Form

On the next page is our Membership Form! Please print it out and use it to join or renew your Membership in the Dexter Area Historical Society! We always need volunteers of all ages and diverse skill sets, but one of the areas missing from the form is a place for you to indicate how you would like to volunteer to help us. Please let us know what you love to do by putting a note somewhere on the page!

Membership fees are due January 1st each year. We have indicated in the note in your email or on your letter the status of your account according to our records. Please use the form on the next page to renew or begin a new membership. Mail the form and your check made out to DAHS to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Thank you.

DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President:

Beverly Hill

Vice-President:

Caryl Burke

Secretary:

Sharon Wheeler

Treasurer:

Carol Jones

DIRECTORS:

Neil Adams

Sue Behnke

Ina Germain

Shawn Pierrel

Ceci Riecker

Nancy Van Blaricum

Gary Vander Haagan

Jan Weaver

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net

GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com

FACILITIES:

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130

GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: www.DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexMuseum@aol.com

Museum Hours: Friday and Saturday, 1 to 3 PM, May through November



Membership Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

(home)

(cell)

Email: _____

Membership Type* New member Renewal

\$_____ Individual \$15 yearly

\$_____ Family \$25 yearly

\$_____ Student \$2 yearly

\$_____ Business \$50

\$_____ Life \$200

Please indicate residence location:

City of Dexter

Township: _____

Other: _____

\$_____ Extra gift for Museum

\$_____ Extra gift for Gordon Hall

\$_____ **TOTAL**

-----Make checks payable to: **Dexter Area Historical Society (DAHS)**-----

Mail to:

Dexter Area Historical Society
3443 Inverness Street
Dexter, MI 48130

Contact:

Phone: 734.426.2519
Email: dexmuseum@aol.com
Website: dexterhistory.org
Find us on Facebook @dexterhistory
Dexter Area Historical Society

*All memberships except Life and Business are renewed each January.